



## The American Socialist

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 1914

### NO CRIME TOO BIG.

There is no crime in the whole calendar of wrong doing too great for capitalist politicians to commit in order to get office.

President Wilson stands guilty of the greatest crime committed in all political campaigns when he deceived and betrayed the striking Colorado coal miners during the recent campaign.

The Colorado coal strike showed that the democratic administration was on its knees before American capitalism. It showed President Wilson cringing before John D. Rockefeller. The curtain had been ruthlessly drawn aside and the star of our political as well as industrial government revealed in the person of the nation's biggest money monarch.

The democratic party had to efface the memory of this unexpected glimpse into the darkness. And President Wilson did the work well. He showed himself a past master at deceiving people. He proved himself a good politician.

During the closing week of the congressional campaign, when the minds of the workers were on the ballot box, President Wilson made it appear that the historic struggle of the Colorado coal miners was permanent in his thoughts. "COLORADO MINES BE CLOSED" shrieked the headlines one day. The following day came "U. S. MAY MAKE COLORADO COAL."

Many workers were no doubt deceived. Again they marched up to the ballot box and voted the democratic ticket. And election day passed and Rockefeller still ruled in Colorado and in the nation.

It was later given out at the White House in Washington that the democratic administration had no intention of closing the Colorado coal mines nor of seizing and operating them. That would anger "John D." and the democratic party would do anything to escape ruffling the feelings of the head of Standard Oil.

This master betrayal stamps President Wilson as the arch-political criminal of the day. Such deception should merit the united protest and bitter rebuke of the entire American working class.

Every worker should dedicate the next two years to exposing the democratic party to political oblivion along with the Republicans and progressive parties. The year 1916 will give the workers another opportunity to show Rockefeller and his kind from the backs of the toiling masses of the nation.

### THIS WEEK'S EDITORIAL FROM SOCIALIST PRESS

#### THE GOVERNMENT AS BAKER.

(From The New York Call.)

It requires a long stretch of imagination on the part of the average man to see in bread a public utility that requires public ownership for its production. Usually it demands a great war, a tremendous earthquake or fire or some such catastrophe, before it appears a natural and commonplace duty for a government to assume the functions of a baker for the time being. After the crisis has disappeared, bread as naturally ceases to be regarded as a public utility or necessity, and its production goes back into private hands, as before.

But governments have baked bread and distributed it, not only in times of crises, but in normal times also. And in the near future there is little doubt that the governments will take over permanently the function of the baker, as well as many others. Bread will come to be ultimately regarded as a public utility.

The Government of New South Wales, in Australia, is the latest to appear in the ranks of the baker. It will acquire a bakery plant and most likely in the near future, it is announced, will supply all the public institutions of the state with bread at 2 cents a pound.

## WAR ISSUE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"The 100" of The American Socialist, issue dated Nov. 24, is to be our "Young People's War Issue."

We want The American Socialist hustlers to run this edition into the hundreds of thousands.

We want this issue to be another big blow at militarism. Socialism does not want children to grow up to become food for hungry cannoneers. Socialism must save the youth of today by preventing all wars in the future.

This issue will also tell about the growing Young People's Socialist movement in America. Every Socialist Party local in the nation should order a bundle of this issue and join in the campaign to win the men and women of tomorrow for Socialism.

### American Socialist Bundle Order Blank

American Socialist, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

For the enclosed \$..... send me ..... copies of The American Socialist, No. 105 (Nov. 24). I want to help The American Socialist win the youth to socialism and prevent all future wars.

**BUNDLE RATES.**

Bundle Rates One Year Name .....  
to One Address—10 copies, \$1.00; 25 copies, \$2.25; 50 copies, \$4.50; 100 copies, \$8.00.

Bundle Rates of Any Length, \$1.00; \$2.00; \$4.00; \$8.00; \$16.00; \$32.00.

**NOTE.** For bundle rates in Cook County see The Chicago Section.

## THE PURPOSE OF SOCIALISM

By CARL D. THOMPSON  
THE MOST PRACTICAL THING IN THE WORLD.

Socialism is the most practical thing in the world.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT IS BY NO MEANS A PIONEER IN THIS MATTER. Municipal governments in Europe, notably in the cities of America, have long since assumed the rôle of private bakers, that they should not be. Doubtless that will come in time in New South Wales, and in a short time, too.

The New South Wales Government is by no means a pioneer in this matter. Municipal governments in Europe, notably in the cities of America, have long since assumed the rôle of private bakers, that they should not be. Doubtless that will come in time in New South Wales, and in a short time, too.

Few people, however, can imagine the American Government in this role, and yet Uncle Sam for years acted as baker for some 50,000 of his employees on the Panama Canal. Good bread he dispensed, too, and cheap. Nor was there any "paternalism" about the matter either. It was strictly a business proposition.

The strangeness of the government appearing as a baker is only due to the conception of government now prevailing. Instead of being regarded as an instrument of the community, to be used for every function that pertains to its welfare, it is as yet regarded mainly as something outside of and above the community, too dignified and important to undertake such trivial matters as the protection of bread.

It is this conception that gives rise to the idea of "paternalism," which is merely the protest of capitalist interests which perceive their profits endangered by the government in a small way fulfilling its function as an instrument of the community.

The capitalist conception of government excludes from its functions every activity that would abolish private profit. In other words, government, instead of being an instrument of the community, must confine itself to being a tool and weapon of the capitalists to insure them a free and unlimited field for private exploitation. If it goes beyond that, or limits it in any way, becomes "paternal" and "socialistic."

The government will bake bread for the people when the people own the government, and it will also do so thousand other things now left to private enterprise for the sake of private profit. There will be no "paternalism" in the condition, either, when it is predominantly recognized that it is simply the community, through their representatives, that are doing for them what was previously left to individuals. When that conception prevails, there will be no difficulty whatever in recognizing bread as a public utility.

**WHAT DO THE WORKERS GET?**

The average wage of the working class in America is \$158 a year in the manufactures, \$500 a year in mining and \$537 a year in farming. These figures are taken from various sources, such as census reports, special reports of the government on mining, and reports of the department of agriculture.

What, then, are the facts concerning the working class, in the aggregate, and on the average, in the United States under the present capitalist system? The facts are these:

The working class on the average is falling short more than \$250 a year of a sufficient income to enable them to live a decent life, and sufficient income to enable them to provide for themselves food, clothing and shelter, leaving them nothing for the higher things of life.

In other words, the present capitalist system is slowly, inevitably undermining the physical stamina of the nation.

Surely here is a master worthy of the attention of the greatest statesmen, as well as every true lover of humanity.

And upon facts like these rests the demand of socialism.

This contest will end December 1. You still have time to enter. Do not forget to address all communications to Contest Editor, American Socialist, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

The Socialist Party local sending in the largest number of new subscribers before Dec. 1, who are at the same time now party members, will be given a set of THE LIBRARY OF CLASSICS, a set of 3 cloth bound books.

If more information concerning this contest is desired, please write to this office and we shall be glad to send you details pertaining to same.

Among the locals to enter this week are Medford, Wis., and Flushing, Ohio.

**JOHNNY'S TANK STEAMERS.**

It appears that coal oil is very necessary, these halcyon days of war, in burning cities, villages, factories and homes. In at least one army they carry it in canteens.

Also you need coal oil and gasoline for your airplane and automobiles, and you absolutely MUST keep kerosene in the tanks you dip from the clouds upon the homes and frightened women, men and children and innocent babies in their cradles.

So Johnny Rockefeller sends the stuff across in big tank steamers, and when it is seized as contraband, he shrugs his shoulders to Uncle Sam about it.—Chicago Day Book.

**CONNECTICUT'S NEW CAMPAIGN STARTS SUNDAY, NOV. 8.**

The winter educational lecture campaign of the Socialist Party in Connecticut will start Sunday, Nov. 8, and continue until May 1, 1915.

The best speakers and lecturers that can be obtained will tour this state during this period. Cornelius Lehane, Cork, Ireland, will begin a propaganda and organization tour of the state Nov. 8. His first date is Nov. 8, in Socialist Party Hall 129 George Street.

The winter lyceum course of the New England States will begin Jan. 1, 1915 and will continue until May 30, 1915. Among the speakers that will tour the New England States will be Frank Bohm, New York City; James O'Neal, Terre Haute, Ind.; George Spies Jr., Hartford, Conn.; Cornelius Lehane, Cork, Ireland; Fred Hirsch, Providence, Rhode Island; Anna A. Maley, New York City.

The states covered by the Lyceum Course are Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. It is planned to continue on an intensive campaign for subscriptions to Socialist newspapers and for new members to the party through this Lyceum course.

An admission fee of 10 cents will be charged for each lecture or 20 cents for the entire course of five lectures. With each season ticket purchased there will be given the choice of one "Bilingual-Socialist book"—"The Truth About Socialism" by Allen Benson, "Socialism Summed Up" by Morris Hillquit or "War, What For?" by George R. Kirkpatrick. It is planned by this method to place in the hands of every person that attends these lectures one piece of Socialist literature.

The Belgian trade unions have made an appeal for aid to the British Trade Union Congress.

## Letters from "American Socialist" Readers

### GETTING SUBSCRIPTIONS.

In criticism of the letter in Oct. 10th issue by L. Munchin, I wish to say where any of our publications would be, had they not asked, and continually kept before us the urgent necessity for more subscribers? The mill plant, the less would have been a loss to the entire United States. It was a loss most properly national and would not have been felt to a farthing's extent. The plant

is not a narrow selfish conspiring

one against the other.

The names all would have been replaced

by the government at once and a

government insurance fund would have replaced all the buildings and plants. We better struggled with

what financial difficulties

we had, than to let the capitalist

conditions, which were to follow,

were to have failed and there would not have been a ripple.

A. E. HOLLOWAY, Montezuma, Wash.

Now compare the Socialist program for such cases and choose the better: Had the government owned the mill plant, the less would have been a loss to the entire United States. It was a loss most properly national and would not have been felt to a farthing's extent. The plant

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A. E. HOLLOWAY, Montezuma, Wash.

CATHOLICS AND SOCIALISM.

In the Sept. 12th issue of THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST I note in the Questions and Answers department the following: Has the Catholic Church ever officially denounced the Socialist Movement? The answer given is, No. Now I would like to know on what authority this answer is given.

It seems to me quite an important point and would determine in quite a large degree the attitude of those who have become nauseated with Appeal Army subscription hunters and see if we can originate a new, and less expensive method of doing business, than the unpaid donation work of a faithful army of devoted comrades who are proud of the Appeal Army and its record, which has kept innocent comrades from the gallows, and spread the first rays of dawning class consciousness among many thousands who have gone on and pursued economic and social ends and no longer need the Appeal Army to sustain them, and that it is no longer needed.

It is a fact that cannot be disguised that many hitherto active comrades are becoming lukewarm in their socialist activities and are giving them to the anti-socialist movement and are not discussing the country-side or their judgement is entirely static, in view of the fact that they have a saving sense of humor.

But the cockeyedness of that ill-timed effort to mitigate the rebuke to the Boss of the "Bug House Bunch" as Local Tyler, Texas, comrades beginning with the first week, Feb. 18, 1914, for traveling to Los Angeles, is made manifest from a study of this week's "Party Membership Record."

We read:—

Conn. June July August Average 1,029 1,383 1,391 1,434 Alabama — 280 — 93 "Nearer to the firing line than any Connecticut man will ever get, IF WE JUDGE BY THE PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT IN CONNECTICUT," vociferates National Comptroller Doyle of Alabama.

Never, which end, dear Comptroller? Your optic nerve seems to be as badly crossed as that "Rio Grande party line."

The "firing line" is in FRONT! You are heading for the back door. Goody-by.

Z. M. Davis, West Haven, Conn.

P. S. None.

Oh yes; there is. You may have meant that TEXAS is "nearer the firing line", not Alabama, so here's the record:—

Population (1910 Census.) Conn. 1,114,746.

Ala. 2,138,093.

Tex. 3,896,542.

The Tex. "Membership Record" is:—

June July August Average 2,520 3,020 1,543 2,361

Also "progressing" backwards you'll notice, "back face."

Z. M. Davis.

THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

It was with considerable interest that I read Comrade Kintner's letter in your issue of October 24. It presented a problem already becoming an important subject for discussion in the councils of the Socialist movement that has been no official attack by the church against Socialism I believe and there is no just excuse for any socialist to be drawn away from his active allegiance to socialism or is there anything to prevent a catholic from being a socialist. But on the other hand if the Pope's Encyclical is such an official attack by the church as a dead body then it is a dead certainty no loyal catholic can be a loyal socialist, at one and the same time.

If this be true then there has been no official attack by the church against Socialism I believe and there is no just excuse for any socialist to be drawn away from his active allegiance to socialism or is there anything to prevent a catholic from being a socialist. But on the other hand if the Pope's Encyclical is such an official attack by the church as a dead body then it is a dead certainty no loyal catholic can be a loyal socialist, at one and the same time.

This is most deplorable ground and we should be very careful about the authority for information on this point.

I. S. McCULLIS. Des Moines, Iowa.

FROM THE BOTTOM UP.

According to Comrade Bell's ring, we the rank and file, are not only Henry Dubbs for the capitalist class but are bigger ones for the Socialist party. Are we going to pay our hard-earned money to keep up this organization, when that time comes we will have war regardless of what the Constitution may contain. How? By simply aggravating those whom we desire to fight to declare war on us as the matter of defending ourselves could never be submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

## Executive Department

WALTER LANFERSIEK, Secretary

**Socialist Executive Committee**  
VICTOR L. REEDER, 900 First St.,  
Washington, D. C.  
GEORGE J. DUNN, State Secy.,  
Socialist Party, 900 First St.,  
Washington, D. C.  
JAMES H. MAURER, 1205 N. Howard  
St., Baltimore, Md.  
STOTT WILSON, Negro Secy., Bar-  
beray, 1205 N. Howard St., Baltimore,  
Md.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
John A. Tamm, Chicago, Ill.; John R. Lewis, Chicago; Charles E. Smith, Chicago; Address of mail to Executive Committee, Socialist Party, 900 First St., Washington, D. C.

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**MEMOIRS TO REFERENDUMS.**

Received since last publication.

By Local Columbus, Kansas (first published Sept. 19, 1914) That the action of the National Committee in submitting to the United States Congress on Oct. 10, 1914, to change the percentage required to initiate referendum, the vote on same was declared unconstitutional.

Seconded by the following locals: Ames, Wash.; Tumlin, Wash.; Jones, Wash.; Paducah, Ky.; Woodland, No. 2, Wash.; Roberts County, N. D.; Olympia, Wash.; Palisade, Wash.; Rocky Ford, Wash.; Gunnison No. 4, Seattle, Wash.; Buckley No. 3, Wash.

By Local Indiana, Indiana (first published Oct. 10, 1914) That the following be added as a plank to the Socialist platform: "The Socialist Party demands that no more wars be started by the United States except by direct vote of the people themselves."

Seconded by the following locals: South Park, Colo.; Tex.; Paducah, Ky.; Roberts Co., N. D.

By Local Toledo, Ohio (first published Oct. 10, 1914) That the following be added as a plank to the Socialist platform: "The Socialist Party demands that no more wars be started by the United States except by direct vote of the people themselves."

Seconded by the following locals: Monticello, O., Pa.; Paducah, Ky.; Roberts Co., N. D.

By Local American Branch, Jamestown, N. Y. (first published Oct. 10, 1914) proposing that "The Socialist Party demands that no more wars be started by the United States except by direct vote of the people themselves," by direct vote of the national constitution of the Socialist Party.

Seconded by Local Madison County, N. Y.

By Local Local Division, Indiana (first published Oct. 10, 1914) Proposing that the Socialist Party and the Socialist Labor Party unite forming the Socialist Party.

Seconded by Local Marion County, Indiana.

Seconded by the following locals:

Paducah, Ky.; Attleboro, Mass.

By Local South Bend, Indiana (first published Oct. 10, 1914) That the following shall be added to the National Party platform: "That no war shall ever be declared by the executive officers of the United States unless made by a majority of the people, who have been voted upon by a referendum vote of the people, and carried by a majority vote."

Seconded by Local Madison County, Indiana.

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE BUSINESS.**

**REFERRED MOTION.**

My George, Illinois.

"That the following rule be inserted in the National Committee Rules after Rule 8. "A motion which has remained open for seconds the required 15 days without sufficient cause, or which has been introduced, either in the same language or language of the United States Senate, by a majority of the people themselves, shall not thereafter be again submitted until six months have elapsed."

Submitted for seconds, Nov. 8, 1914.

Motions by Bob, Tulsa.

Seconded by the following locals:

Montgomery, Ala.; Paducah, Ky.; Roberts Co., N. D.

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Seconded by Local Marion County, Indiana.

Seconded by the following locals:

Paducah, Ky.; Attleboro, Mass.

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Seconded by Local Marion County, Indiana.

Seconded by the following locals:

Paducah, Ky.; Attleboro, Mass.

I again move that a voluntary assessment of \$25 per member be levied upon the party membership for funds to be used in furthering all measures used by the national party to organize the country.

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Seconded by the following locals:

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I again move that for the next six months the following amounts per month be appropriated to the state organizations by the national committee by the method of agitation and organization, to-wit: to Colorado, \$100; to Delaware, Georgia, South Carolina and Vermont, \$100; to Alabama, Mississippi, New Mexico and North Carolina, each \$75; to Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Virginia, each \$50.

I again move a vote of censure against the editor of the Socialist Standard, for writing a letter to a letter from Committee on "Kicks from a Chronic Kicker," as a heading to a letter from Committee on Defense of Austria.

Comment.

This is another example of proof of the folly of such an established institution as a party-owned but officially dominated official organ.

The editor cannot refrain from expressing his own prejudice by seeking to kill the effect of a letter he disagreed with by continually referring to the very beginning of the article reflecting the character and purpose of the writer.

If comrades Davis is a "chronic kicker," the editor of the Standard need not without any exaggeration from the editor.

(Statement by the editor.—The heading "Kicks from a Chronic Kicker" was placed by Comrade Davis at the head of his own letter. Numerous readers put their heading on their letters, evidently intending that that way they would be the first to present it to the paper. This will not go into the paper. In this case we felt that we were merely complying with the wishes of Comrade Davis.)

I again move that the national office shall send out no appeal to the locals or other subdivisions of the party for funds to be used for any purpose whatever, nor action, fine being submitted to the National Committee and approved by a two-thirds vote of those voting, and that no such money be "appropriated" in place of the words "appropriated."

Comment.

Two thirds rule is equivalent to minority rule.

I move to rescind the action of the National Executive Committee in inviting the socialist party of the United States to send delegations to an International Socialist Congress to be held in this country at the expense of the Socialist Party of America for their friends.

Comment.

I am not opposing an International Convention either in America or wherever convened at the earliest possible moment.

We are Socialists congresses to the end that the International spirit and tactics should dominate and destroy nationalism within the countries.

Shouldering the expense of foreign however, is an innovation—a pace we cannot afford.

NOTE BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

This motion is out of order. The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting were published Oct. 10, Memphis, Tenn., and received Oct. 13, twelve days after the fifteen-day period had elapsed. See Sec. 8 Art. VI, National Constitution.

Seconded by the following locals:

Paducah, Ky.; Attleboro, Mass.

I again move that the National Office be permitted to mail out to all Local Committees all printed works and publications during each service, the prints to all expenses.

Comment.

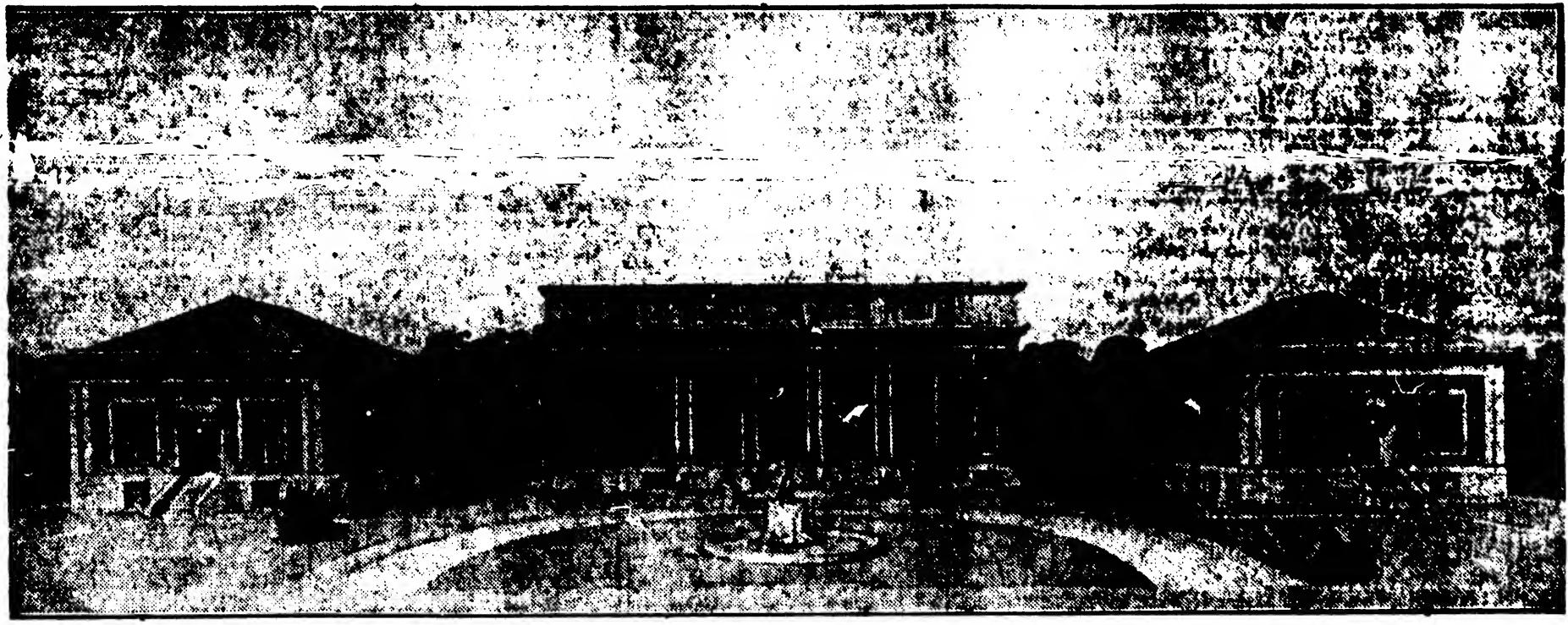
The privilege was granted the Leader of the Executive Committee by the Executive Committee.

The same request, to supply the expense of printing, was made in the character of the Report of the Committee on "Proposed National Executive Committee," but the Report did not state specifically as a fact.

The request for the Report was granted, and after a month's waiting to see if the Executive Committee in as silence as the tomb.

We are told, surely, in the interests of the national party, you can't wait.

## HERE IS ONE IDEA FOR NATIONAL PARTY-OWNED HEADQUARTERS



THE question of having the Socialist Party own its national headquarters has been claiming increased attention.

The last national committee meeting had this matter under discussion and the same problem will no doubt be taken up at the next gathering of this body in May.

There will be "Headquarters' Week" in December when efforts will be made to start a fund, with which to secure a party headquarters.

## This Is One Suggestion.

This picture is merely a suggestion for a Socialist Party National Headquarters. It has not been adopted by the Headquarters' Committee of the Socialist Party but is offered as one of the ideas of what a party-owned headquarters should be like.

The large building in the center would contain as much space on each floor as is now occupied by the National Office, and it is estimated that this structure would contain all the activities of the office for perhaps ten years to come.

If it were found advisable later to establish a printing plant, one of the wings could be constructed for that purpose. The printing plant could be placed on the ground floor and the literature department would occupy the upper floors. Both plant and office would be in a separate building, as a protection against fire and also to segregate the noise that is inevitable in such an establishment.

The reference library connected with the Information Department is constantly growing. Within a few years this will be a very valuable asset to the party, especially when we begin to elect city and state officials in numbers. Such a library will require space, and should also be protected from fire, hence a separate building.

As this building is an integral part of the Information Department, the department should also be housed in this building.

Third submiss.

I again move that the precise of the Executive Committee in paying a royalty to the Socialist Party be dis-continued.

## Third submiss.

I again move that the limit of comittee be extended to hundred words.

## Third submiss.

I again move that the act creating and instructing a special committee on head quarters be rescinded.

## Second submiss.

I again move that the provisions of Resolution No. 1, 1914 by the locals requesting five per cent of the membership be required to initiate referendums, be recognized as now effective.

A motion to declare unconstitutional a perfectly legal party referendum was carried and the referendum rejected after balloting.

Another motion in exactly the same form, to declare another referendum unconstitutional, was ruled out of order by the Executive Committee, and his decision was "sustained" almost unanimously by this intelligent National.

The first motion offered no grounds for its constitutionality. The second motion did.

The first motion deliberately and brutal-ly took the franchise from the membership on the referendum. The second motion did not affect the right of the members to make a proposal, but it did affect the right of the members to present it to the party.

It is evident that the author of the second motion was trying to prevent any referendum on all referendums. This will be done.

Second submiss.

I again move that without waiting to be asked, the state organizations to whom appropriate appropriations were made for the work of agitation and organization, be given the right to initiate referendums.

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Third submiss.

I again move that Rule 12 of the National Committee be struck out.

I move to reverse the action of the National Congressional Campaign Committee in appropriating \$10,000 to the Fourth and Fifth Wisconsin districts.

Comment.

An appropriation was made to these two districts in 1912 has recently been paid, amounting to about as much as all other appropriations made at the time.

It is again moved to appropriate \$10,000 to the same districts in 1913, and this while the other appropriations of 1912 have never been paid.

There is no reason of course, why the Fourth and Fifth districts should not know how to "get there."

Second submiss.

REPLIED NATIONAL COMMITTEE MOTION.

By Compt. of the Standard.

(1) That the Executive Committee reverse

the action of the National Committee in appro-

priating \$10,000 to the Fourth and Fifth Wisconsin districts.

Comment.

I again move that the National Office

be permitted to mail out to all Local

Committees all printed works and publications

during each service, the prints to all expenses.

Comment.

The privilege was granted the Leader of the Executive Committee by the Executive Committee.

The same request, to supply the expense of

printing, was made in the character of the Report of the Committee on "Proposed National Executive Committee," but the Report did not state specifically as a fact.

The request for the Report was granted,

and after a month's waiting to see if the Executive Committee in as silence as the tomb.

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## 100,000 SUBS By January 1st, 1915

Last Week ..... 44,361  
Off ..... 516  
Total ..... 44,877  
App-Subs ..... 1,115  
Gains ..... 51,000

Gains ..... 872

Well, we made it! The hustlers managed to make it an increase anyhow, although it was a hard task. Over eight hundred off in one week is enough to keep any bunch of hustlers busy. It was that big bunch of off from Pennsylvania that is responsible for this. We had 5,000 or so short time subscribers in Pennsylvania and they are coming in big bunches. The comrades in Pennsylvania ought to get busy and get those short time subscribers to sign up for 60 weeks. They have had a taste of THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST and we feel sure that they are hungering for more.

There are many things connected with the running of a working-class paper that the average subscriber has little idea about. Take for example, last week, we had in the neighborhood of 1,000 chances of address. This is an circulation of less than 10,000 in nearly 3 percent of the total circulation. It gives you an idea how working people are compelled to move around, for it is hardly likely that the average workingman goes to the expense of moving merely for the fun of it. It took one employee nearly two days to adjust those changes.

Now, comrades right after election a big batch of our three months' subscribers is coming off. We want you to put your best foot forward and give an extra pull. Keep the circulation figures rising.

### ROLL OF HONOR

Gas Gains, Victor, Calif., writes that he has sold 83 AMERICAN SOCIALIST subscription cards this week.

The Nebraska Socialist, Chicago, Ill., sends in a list of 17 this week.

"I am going to beg for more 'subs' all the time. The American Socialist is the best paper in America," B. F. Jackson, Muldrow, Okla.

G. C. Porter, Morris, Neb., comes in this week with a list of 29.

From Malvern, Kan., comes a list of 14 names from Julian Bernardino.

"Will do all I can for the American Socialist writes Chas. A. Byrd, McComb, Miss.

M. E. Gorilla, Arnold, Pa., hands us a lucky 13 list this week.

"Long live the American Socialist," enthusiastically writes Victor Mackey, Covington, Mich.

Vincent Heber, Chicago, Ill., says, "I like the paper and wish to thank the sender. That is my object of finding out who this kind person is." There is an idea comrades, why not send the American Socialist to some other people who would thank you for it.

Please remember seven cards at the \$1.00 rate are sold at reduction and therefore no premium is offered for an order of this kind.

For 100% of 12 subscribers at 25 cents each your choice of the following:

The 1914 Campaign Book.

The Human Slasher-House.

The Carpenter and the Rich Man.

War What War.

The following hustlers have taken advantage of the above offer:

T. F. Lockwood, Cleveland, Ohio.

James Musseter, Los Angeles, Cal.

J. E. Van Wyo, Niles, Ohio.

Paul Fragale, New Kensington, Pa.

A. F. Borges, Chicago, sends in a list of 10.

"The American Socialist is simply great." It is as clean and forceful as anything I ever read." J. E. Van Wy, Niles, Ohio.

"I am pleased to note that the American Socialist is improving greatly and I believe it to be the best Socialist newspaper in the country. Keep it up." Nathan Marks, Philadelphia, Pa.

"Can't be beat," writes H. A. Schulz, of Clashing, Ind. Ten names go on the list from his town.

Joe Glass, Passaic, N. J., sends in a list of nine. N. J. Falkanger, Grand Forks, N. D. does likewise.

"I think it is a fine paper and should be read by every socialist." Harvey Bodey, Northport, Wash.

For a club of eight subscribers at 25 cents each (Your choice of the following):

War What War! (Kirkpatrick)

Bastards Heart of the Nation (Hawkins)

The following comrades have taken advantage of this offer:

Henry W. Miller, Palatine, Ohio.

Frank G. Pilkinton, Chicago, Ill.

Joe Glass, Passaic, N. J.

John H. Klemmer, Seattle, Wash.

Lists of seven have been received from H. L. Klemmer, Elberta, Mich.

R. L. Cuthbert, Cleethorpes, Eng.

Cyrus Hutchins, Delhi, N. Y. sends in the name of six farmers.

Wm. H. Webb, Saginaw, Mich. and Fred N. Miles, Middletown, Del., also send in lists of six.

J. A. McVatty, Cleveland, Ohio, sends in a list of five. R. Pahn, Kenosha, Wis., appears with a list of the same number.

Clubs of four have been sent in by

John Kirkpatrick, Wichita, Kansas.

Paul Beyer, Thompson, Ohio.

Chas. Kallioch, Cleveland, Ohio.

W. A. Ashburner, Steubenville, Ohio.

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The Congressional edition of the American Socialist will come and want the people of this town to read it. John T. Southard, Jacksonville, Ohio, distributes a few hundred in his community.

### STORY OF 51 DEAD; LAW NOT ENFORCED

By ADOLPH GERMER  
Vice-President Illinois  
Miss Workers

Entangled in sorrow are the homes of the miners in Royko, Ill., where 51 lives were snuffed out in the blinding of 1914.

When the victims of this catastrophe left home on the morning of Oct. 27, little did they dream that death was so near; they had no thought of never seeing their loved ones again. But such is the miners' fate.

Fifty-one dead and scores wounded is the price paid because the law has not been properly enforced.

About four weeks ago an explosion occurred in the same mine though no one was fatally injured.

The men made complaint about the ventilation, even going so far as writing to the County Mine Inspector asking that he come to make an examination of the mine but without avail, he explained that orders must be given before he could comply with the request of the men.

No Order Came.

Apparently no order came, perhaps because the master was not brought to the attention of the State Inspector. Be that as it may, the inspection was not made.

On the morning of Oct. 27, as usual, the miners began to descend into the mine at seven o'clock. Some were still around the bottom while others had proceeded to their working places. All of a sudden a shock was felt and dust and smoke filled the openings.

Bad and touching stories are told by some of the survivors whose brothers, partners or friends were killed beside them. It was about 7:20 that Jack Miller, the Local Miners Union President, and a number of others were at the shaft bottom. W. D. Williams was beside Miller when they were struck as if by a cyclone and all that Miller can remember is the last words of Williams — "By God Jack, what has happened?" At this Miller was overcome and did not regain consciousness until that afternoon.

Story of Two Brothers.

Another sad story was that of two brothers, who with several other miners were on their way to their work. When the force of the explosion struck them they were in total darkness while men were groaning all around. Finally one of them, a foreign miner, though badly bruised succeeded in striking a match and one of the brothers saw the other lying dead a few feet away. Others told similar stories.

The bodies were charred and blistered; some were burned beyond recognition. It was a ghastly sight, one that I shall remember to the end of my days.

There are conflicting stories as to the cause of the explosion. The County Mine Inspector is quoted as having said that it was caused by carelessly going into a place that contained gas. However, before the Coroners' Jury be testified that if the proper ventilation is kept up, gas will not generate in dangerous quantities.

Widows and Orphans.

That as it may, the law provides in substance that where danger is found to exist in any place by the mine examiner the "fire check" of the man or men working in such place must be withheld and the men not permitted to go in until the danger is removed and the place made safe.

That was not done in this case. Had it been done, those lives would have been spared. Women would not be widows and children orphans. Again had the ventilation been perfect the danger would have been obviated and there would have been no possibility of the catastrophe.

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## American "Neutrality" Is Standing On Weak Legs

By VICTOR L. BERGER

The newspapers told us that the "Minuscule" carried over to England hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition.

France has placed orders in this country for 50,000 horses.

Germany, though engaged for gun carriages for England.

Several hundred thousand dollars worth of goods have been exported from here of course to Germany, because this country can not be reached.

We also read of enormous orders of steel, copper, barbed wire and kindred American products going to the Entente, i.e., to England and France.

According to official reports, the exportation of canned beef from America jumped from 364,000 pounds in September, 1913, to 2,000,000 last month. More than 7,000,000 pounds of fresh meat were shipped abroad last month, compared with 634,000 in September, 1913.

The Entente, i.e., to England and France, has also increased its imports of grain.

The war growth of grain exports was as marked. Barley sales jumped from 261,000 bushels in September, 1913, to 2,750,000 bushels last month—or over 1,000 per cent.

It all went to the Entente.

Export of oats grew from \$18,000 in September, 1913, to 10,700,165 in September, 1914.

Wheat imports from 11,112,165 in September, 1913, to 16,442,517 in the corresponding month. It all went to England and France.

And that's all we read! At the English referred to permit the import of a little grain from Holland into famished Belgium, although Germany offered to guarantee that such grain would be used for feeding Belgian citizens only.

Trade between America and Germany remained at a standstill.

September's exports being less than \$6,000—but that to Great Britain was well maintained, reports our department of commerce.

And that is called "neutrality."

Well, it is "business!"

To fully appreciate the danger of it all, we must also consider the following:

About 50 per cent of our big capitalists and 90 per cent of the daily papers of this country are violently pro-English.

Above all it is a fact that America and English capitalism has been in partnership for the last 50 years and the commercial fortunes of the two countries are closely connected.

American neutrality stands on weak legs indeed. Americans should, therefore, be careful. A war comes like a thief in the night.

### INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

GARL D. THOMPSON, Director.

Purpose—To collect, classify and make available for the membership of the Socialist Party and other socialist organizations information on economic, political and social problems. To assist elected officials with such information as they may need in the discharge of their duties.